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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, March 16, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Lloyd John Ogilvie, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, we begin this day by remembering Benjamin Franklin's words to George Washington at the Constitutional Convention:

"I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid? I believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded * * *."

Gracious Lord, we join our voices with our Founding Forefathers in confessing our total dependence upon You. We believe that You are the author of the glorious vision that gave birth to our beloved Nation. What You began You will continue to develop to full fruition and today the women and men of this Senate will grapple with the issues of moving this Nation forward in keeping with Your vision. It is awesome to realize that You use us to accomplish Your goals. So keep us mindful of the eight words of God-centered leadership: Without You we can't; without us You won't. Think Your thoughts through us; speak Your truth through our words; enable Your best for America by what You lead us to decide. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRASSLEY. This morning the time for the two leaders has been reserved, and there will now be a period for morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m. At the hour of 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4, the line-item veto bill. Pending to the line-item veto bill is a substitute amendment on which a cloture motion was filed yesterday. Therefore, a rollcall vote will occur on that cloture motion tomorrow. However, rollcall votes are possible during today's session of the Senate.

FILING OF AMENDMENTS UNTIL 1 P.M.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess of the Senate today, Members have until 1 p.m.—and that is today—to file amendments to the substitute amendment to S. 4.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now go into morning business.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, am I on the order for morning business?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] is recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

INTEGRITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, you are chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I do not often have an opportunity to speak when the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, also the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, is in the chair. I am in the middle of a series of speeches on the defense budget, and I know that the Senator from South Carolina is very much for a strong national defense. I am also for a strong national defense. But I have some questions about the amount of money we ought to spend and whether or not it has been used in the most well-managed way. And so I am addressing that issue.

So today I wish to resume my presentation on the integrity of the Department of Defense budget.

(Mr. DEWINE assumed the chair.)

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday I provided some background information on how I got involved in defense issues in the early 1980's and have been involved with them since. I talked about how the spare parts horror stories convinced me that President Reagan's defense buildup would lead to waste on a massive scale. I talked about how the spare parts horror stories drove me to the job of watchdogging the Pentagon.

Today I wish to begin discussing the accuracy of the Department of Defense budget and accounting data. Each year, Congress debates the Department of Defense budget for days. I do not expect this year to be much different. In fact, the debate may intensify. It may intensify because some of my Republican colleagues are bent on pumping up the defense budget again by billions of dollars. I am flat baffled by their proposal. I do not understand it. They want to start back up the slippery slope toward higher defense budgets

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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